

AN ACT

relating to the issuance of a pass for expedited access to the State Capitol.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 411.0625 to read as follows:

Sec. 411.0625. PASS FOR EXPEDITED ACCESS TO CAPITOL. (a) The department shall allow a person to enter the Capitol and the Capitol Extension, including any public space in the Capitol or Capitol Extension, in the same manner as the department allows entry to a person who presents a concealed handgun license under Subchapter H if the person:

(1) obtains from the department a Capitol access pass; and

(2) presents the pass to the appropriate law enforcement official when entering the building or a space within the building.

(b) To be eligible for a Capitol access pass, a person must meet the eligibility requirements applicable to a license to carry a concealed handgun under Subchapter H, other than requirements regarding evidence of handgun proficiency.

(c) The department shall adopt rules to establish a procedure by which a resident of the state may apply for and be issued a Capitol access pass. Rules adopted under this section must

1 include provisions for eligibility, application, approval,
2 issuance, and renewal that:

3 (1) require the department to conduct the same
4 background check on an applicant for a Capitol access pass that is
5 conducted on an applicant for a concealed handgun license under
6 Subchapter H;

7 (2) enable the department to conduct the background
8 check described by Subdivision (1); and

9 (3) establish application and renewal fees in amounts
10 sufficient to cover the cost of administering this section, not to
11 exceed the amounts of similar fees required for a concealed handgun
12 license under Section 411.174.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

H.B. No. 2131

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2131 was passed by the House on April 19, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 3, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2131 was passed by the Senate on May 12, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor